PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. and 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 18 wherein groups R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 represent methyl.

4. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 18 wherein X_1 represents oxygen, X_2 is hydrogen, X_3 is OH and groups R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 represent methyl.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in ~~claims 1-5~~ Claim ~~1~~ 18 wherein said liquid compositions containing active chlorine are thickened with a soluble or water-dispersible polymers selected from homo- or co-polymers of acrylic acid or homo- or co-polymers of cross-linked acrylic acid.

7-8. (Cancelled)

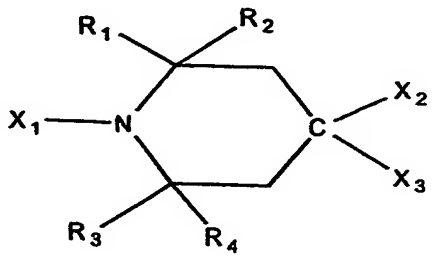
9. (Currently Amended) Method as claimed in ~~claims 1 to 5~~ Claim ~~1~~ 18 wherein the amount active chlorine is between 0.5-10% by weight and the amount of stabilizer is between 0.005% and 3% by weight

10-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A liquid detergent composition for domestic and industrial cleaning containing an alkali or alkaline earth hypochlorite stabilized according to the method of Claim 18.

18. (New) Method for stabilizing the viscosity and/or the active chlorine content of a liquid composition containing alkali or alkaline earth hypochlorites comprising the addition to said composition of 0.001% to 5% of a compound belonging to the class of hindered amines of the general formula (I)

Formula I



wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4, which may be the same or different, represent methyl or ethyl; X_1 represents an oxygen atom, an -OH group or an OR_5 group, wherein R_5 represents linear or branched alkyl C_1-C_4 or cyclohexyl; X_2 represents hydrogen and X_3 represents the groups -OH or -NHR_5, wherein R_5 has the meaning described above; or X_2 and X_3, taken together, represent an oxygen atom.